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DE RUEHAN #0277/01 1001410
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 091410Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1179
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0999
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0064
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0077
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0077
RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANTANANARIVO 000277

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR AF/E, AF/FO AND S
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA - KLUU, ACONVERY, SROGERS, TDENYSENKO
FOR DCHA/FFP/DP - PNOVICK, SANTHONY, JTAYLOR
AFR/EA - OCOLE
PRETORIA USAID/OFDA - HHALE
NAIROBI FOR USAID/EA/FFP - DGORDON
ROME FOR FODAG
GENEVA FOR RMA, DHA, IFRC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [SOCI](#) [OPDC](#) [CN](#)

SUBJECT: LETTER TO POTUS FROM COMORAN PRESIDENT - APRIL 7

REF: ANTANANARIVO 251

¶1. (U) Paragraph Two contains an informal Embassy translation of a letter in French from Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi, President of the Union of the Comoros, for President George Bush. It was delivered via faxed copy of a Diplomatic Note dated April 7, 2008. A scanned copy of the French original is also being sent to the desk.

¶2. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT:

Dear Mr. President,

I am particularly happy to inform Your Excellency that I finally arrived in Anjouan on Saturday, April 5, 2008, after eleven months of a shameful prohibition on me, my family and my close colleagues by the ousted rebel regime.

Excellency, I cannot express the joy that I felt when I saw all these men and women from the entire archipelago, who came together and celebrated in joy and brotherhood the end of the separatism and the restored unity.

It is obvious that this joy felt by the entire Comoran population today would not have been possible without the valuable support of Your Excellency and the constant support of your friendly country.

Therefore, I would like to reiterate my warmest gratitude as well as my deep acknowledgement for the resolve with which you have accompanied my country in the fight against the plague of separatism that spread over Anjouan for years, a resolve that has sparked in the heart of the Comoran people in general and the population of Anjouan in particular, on March 25, the immense hope for a better future.

However, please allow me, Excellency, to point out that this hope brought about by the liberation of Anjouan cannot perpetuate without an examination and a rapid solution to the various issues facing this island, which is deeply ravaged by eleven years of separatism and rebellion.

In fact, the population of this island that remains the poorest of the archipelago, statistically speaking, despite its numerous assets, lives in precarious conditions of particular concern.

Therefore, my Government has to reassure this population by improving basic infrastructure, namely the health and education sectors, as well as the fight against idleness that affects a sizeable portion of the population, most of whom are young people who have been left to themselves for years.

It is in this context that we plan to launch, in collaboration with the interim authorities in the islands, a large-scale project related to the social and economic restoration of the island in view of consolidating the restored peace and stability and creating the conditions favorable to the organization of free and transparent elections in this island over the next few weeks.

Therefore, I wish to make a solemn call to the entire international community, including particularly to your country, so that you would join, with the same willingness and resolve, the reconstruction work that has to be undertaken in Anjouan, so as to assist the island's population to find a way out of misery and poverty.

I am convinced that this difficult fight that we plan to carry out, along with the inevitable examination by the Union, in consultation with all the national role players concerned, of those reforms necessary for the adequate functioning of my country's institutions, shall enhance the social cohesion as well as the recovery of the unity of the Union of the Comoros.

Yours respectfully,

Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi

END TEXT.

ANTANANARI 00000277 002 OF 002

MARQUARDT